

WHAT RESULT DO WE WANT?

All people in North Carolina are financially stable and have lifetime economic prosperity.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

“The current scale of community development is insufficient to address the many complex causes of poverty and to ensure the vital conditions that shape health, wealth, and well-being are met for all Americans. Addressing poverty and meeting the vital conditions are in the direct interest of stakeholders beyond the field of community development, including government officials, businesses and business owners, educators, and healthcare providers and payers. New business models are needed to closely align the financial interests of those who benefit from a healthier, more productive population and those who create the conditions that promote human flourishing.”¹

“The nation’s dominant narrative, which states that people can achieve the American Dream of economic success through resilience and grit and by taking personal responsibility, causes great harm. We have stigmatized poverty with racist and misogynistic language such as “welfare queens and deadbeat dads,” instead of acknowledging our history. This narrative perpetuates White privilege and tells those in stigmatized groups that opportunity is there if they seize it and work twice as hard. Working twice as hard to overcome systemic and structural barriers harms health. Evidence shows how disparities in health outcomes increase with education and income, which contradicts a narrative that emphasizes personal responsibility and hard work.”²

HNC 2030 HEADLINE INDICATOR:
Percent of individuals with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

WHAT DOES THIS INDICATOR MEASURE?

- Reports how many people in the United States are very poor
- Data are from the American Community Survey that is administered by the U.S. Census Bureau annually
- Data are disaggregated by race, gender, county
- Survey data are weighted, thus percentages are estimates

BASLINE DATA FROM HNC 2030

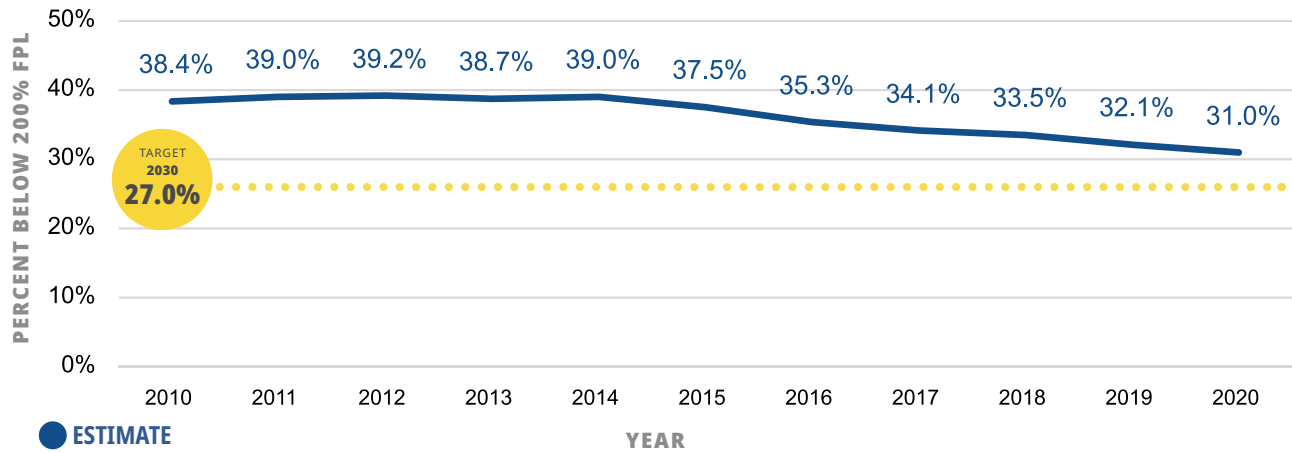


HOW ARE WE DOING?

- The percent of individuals at or below 200% FPL is trending downward for all race/ethnicities since 2012
- The gender poverty gap has increased since 2010 (3.5 percentage points in 2010; 4.2 percentage points in 2020)

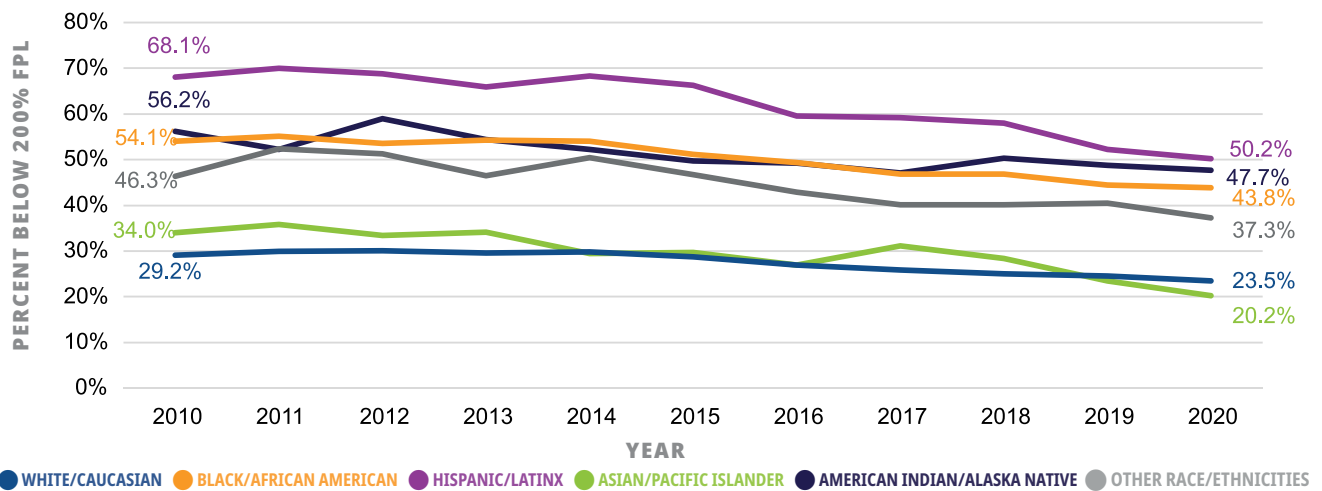
CURRENT DATA TRENDED OVER TIME

Figure 13. Percent of individuals below 200% Federal Poverty Level in North Carolina (2010 - 2020)



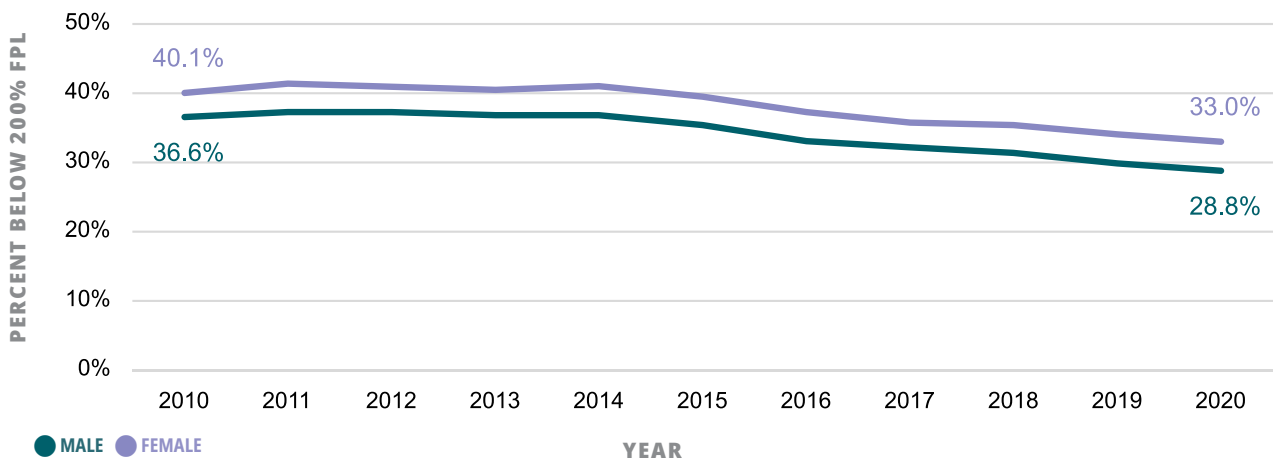
Data source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, American Community Survey, 1 year estimates.

Figure 14. Percent of individuals below 200% Federal Poverty Level in North Carolina by race/ethnicity (2010 - 2020)



Data source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, American Community Survey, 1 year estimates.

Figure 15. Percent of individuals below 200% Federal Poverty Level in North Carolina by gender (2010 - 2020)



Data source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, American Community Survey, 1 year estimates.

THE STORY BEHIND THE CURVE

According to the North Carolina Justice Center, in 2019 the federal poverty guideline was \$25,750 combined income for a family or household of four.

- 1.4 million North Carolinians, or about 1 in every 7 people in the state, lived in poverty ³
- 1 in 5 North Carolinians under 18, or over 430,000 children, lived in poverty ⁴

Higher rates of poverty among women are connected to the lack of support for working parents. ⁶

In 2019, the poverty rate among North Carolina women was more than 20 percent higher than for men.

- 786,000 women, or 14.9 percent, experienced poverty ⁷
- 600,000 men, or 12.2 percent, experienced poverty ⁸

Young children have the highest poverty rate of any age group. ⁹

Many people were close to poverty before the COVID-19 pandemic began. ¹⁰

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau changed the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) release. Instead of providing the standard 1-year data products, the Census Bureau released experimental estimates from the 1-year data. One should not compare 2020 ACS data to any other data survey years. ¹¹

WHAT OTHER DATA DO WE NEED?

The ACS may be an especially inadequate measure of poverty for 2019 and 2020 because of data lag time of at least a year, and the pandemic impact. Consider:

- Economic Mobility: Job market (income); Savings rate; Ownership (home, business, investment)
- Household Pulse Survey (U.S. Census Bureau). Consider the impact of the pandemic on people's lives: food, housing, and transportation insecurity - <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>
- Road to Zero Wealth Study - <https://ips-dc.org/report-the-road-to-zero-wealth/>

WHAT COULD WORK TO TURN THE CURVE?

Reparation was perhaps the boldest idea discussed at the 2021 Stakeholder Symposia. Economic reparation is about closing the wealth gap between blacks and whites in the United States.

The attendees in the Stakeholder Symposia talked about the importance of making sure that people with direct lived experience with poverty be involved in the strategies and interventions to combat poverty. With education being a key strategy to end poverty and build wealth, several participants suggested that community colleges encouraged students to work at their own pace – both classroom and online. This practice was seen as helpful to students who did not do well in group settings, classrooms, or rigid environments. Other participants reported that paid apprenticeships helped to finance education and create new paths. Some suggested that teaching entrepreneurship and small business development in high school could give disadvantaged young people greater opportunity.

- Create and expand legislation and advocate with employers to provide paid family medical leave, earned paid sick leave, kin care, and safe days for all caregivers
- Ease negative impact of “benefits cliffs” caused by reductions in benefits, by lengthening phase-out periods
- Eliminate taxation on sanitary products including menstrual supplies, diapers, and breastfeeding supplies
- Expand Medicaid eligibility
- Expand the availability and amount of childcare subsidies to reflect the cost of care more adequately
- Raise the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour
- Restore the North Carolina Earned Income Tax Credit
- Support “early college while in high school” programs, such as REaCH and SEarCH



**“THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
REQUIRES A MORAL RESPONSE
THAT TARGETS THE ROOT CAUSES
OF LONGSTANDING POVERTY
AND INEQUITY TO BRING SHARED
PROSPERITY TO ALL NORTH
CAROLINIANS.”**

- Logan Rockefeller Harris, North Carolina
Justice Center (2020)

RECOMMENDED READING/LISTENING

From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century (2020)
William A. Darity, Jr. and Kristen Mullen (2020)

The ARC of Justice: From Here to Equality (2021)
Duke Sanford School of Public Policy Ways and Means Podcast Series
<https://waysandmeansshow.org/2021/02/24/new-season-arc-justice/>

NC PARTNERS WHO CAN HELP US

PARTNER/POTENTIAL PARTNER	WEBSITE LINK
Child Care Services Association (CCSA)	https://www.childcareservices.org/
Communities in Partnership (CIP)	https://communitiesinpartnership.org/
Cooperative Christian Ministry	https://cooperativeministry.com/
Crisis Assistance Ministry	https://www.crisisassistance.org/
End Poverty Durham	http://endpovertydurham.org/
Equity Before Birth	https://www.equitybeforebirth.com/
GreenLight Fund-Charlotte	https://greenlightfund.org/sites/charlotte/
Latin American Coalition	https://latinamericancoalition.org/
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation	https://www.mrbf.org/
NAACP	https://naacp.org/
NCCARE360	https://nccare360.org/
NC Early Childhood Foundation (NCECF)	https://buildthefoundation.org/
North Carolina Community Action Association	https://www.nccaa.net/
North Carolina Early Education Coalition	https://ncearlyeducationcoalition.org/
NC DHHS Office of Economic Opportunity	https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/office-economic-opportunity
North Carolina Justice Center	https://www.ncjustice.org/
NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence	https://nccadv.org/
North Carolina Department of Commerce	https://www.nccommerce.com/
North Carolina Network of Grantmakers (NCNG)	https://ncgrantmakers.org/
North Carolina Poor People's Campaign- A National Call for Moral Revival	https://ppc-nc.org/
Raising Wages NC	https://raisingwagesnc.org/
The Duke Endowment	https://www.dukeendowment.org/program-areas/overview
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation	https://www.zsr.org/